

Claims 44, 46-57, 66 and 68-79 are pending in the application, with claims 44 and 66 being independent. Claims 45 and 67 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 46-48, 55, 57, 68-70, 77 and 79 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 44, 49-51, 53, 54, 56, 66, 72-73, 75, 76 and 78 have been amended herein to even more clearly define the invention in a manner that distinguishes over the art.

The Office Action indicates that claims 66-79 are considered substantial duplicates of claims 44-57. Applicants believe the amendments presented herein even further clarify the distinctions between these two claim sets.

Claims 44, 45, 49-54, 56, 66, 67, 71-76 and 78 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request withdrawal thereof. The Office Action indicates that it is unclear whether the claims are directed to a sheave, or such a sheave in combination with an elevator system. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nowhere in any claim is any element of an elevator system, other than a sheave, recited positively as a claim element. Throughout the claims, the other components of the elevator system are recited inferentially as necessary in order to define the features of the claimed sheave.

Each independent claim, and various dependent claims, stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly being anticipated by any one of GB 2,127,934, SU 1491804 A, Pearson 1,164,115, Sapozhnikov et al. 3,910,559, Morris et al. 4,620,615, Greening 2,017,149, Bruns 3,279,762, Patterson, Jr. 2,326,670, or Rauscher 4,292,723. Dependent claims 51, 52, 73 and 74 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Pearson 1,164,115 in view of either Patterson, Jr. 2,326,670, Sapozhnikov et al. 3,910,559, or Morris et al. 4,620,615. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and withdrawal is requested.

Claims 44 and 66 each recites a driven traction sheave for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car, a counterweight and a plurality of flat tension members interconnecting the car and the counterweight, each tension member having a width, a thickness measured in the bending direction, and a wide polyurethane engagement surface -- defined by or spanning the width dimension of the tension member, respectively. Each tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width relative to thickness, of greater than one. In claim 66, each tension

member includes a load carrying rope and a polyurethane coating encasing the load carrying rope. In each claim, the traction sheave includes a plurality of traction surfaces.

In claim 44, the traction surfaces are each configured to receive the wide polyurethane engagement surface of one of the tension members, each traction surface having a profile that is complementary to the wide polyurethane engagement surface of the tension member. In claim 66, the traction surfaces, about which the plurality of tension members is deflected, each are shaped to accommodate the wide engagement surface of one of the tension members.

In each claim, the traction surfaces collectively have sufficient traction--with the wide polyurethane engagement surfaces or the polyurethane coatings of the tension members, respectively--to move the car and the counterweight when the traction sheave is driven.

With the exception of Pearson 1,164,115 (Pearson), each of the cited documents discloses a sheave or drum for an elevator or hoist that employs standard round ropes. Therefore, none of these documents discloses or suggests the features recited in claim 44 regarding traction surfaces that are configured to receive the wide engagement surfaces of the tension members, each traction surface having a surface profile that is complementary to the wide engagement surface of a tension member (which has an aspect ratio of greater than one), nor the features recited in claim 66 regarding traction surfaces, about which the plurality of tension members is deflected, each being shaped to accommodate the wide engagement surface of one of the tension members (each having an aspect ratio of greater than one). As noted above, the tension members are not claimed. However, the tension members do impose structural limitations on the claimed traction sheave, limitations which may not be ignored. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to, for example, the discussion in MPEP 2111.02 of *In re Stencel*.

Similarly, each of the cited documents, including Pearson, discloses a sheave or drum for use with steel ropes or straps. Thus, each fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in each independent claim regarding traction surfaces that collectively have sufficient traction--with the wide polyurethane engagement surfaces or the polyurethane coatings of the tension members, respectively--to move the car and the counterweight when the traction sheave is driven.

Further, Pearson recites a belt or driven member that is built up of a plurality of superimposed strips of flexible metal. If more than two strips are desired, a multiple-wheel, tilting arm arrangement (Fig. 2) is provided. Mechanisms are provided to independently and

positively connect each of the strips to the car and counterweight, and each strip can support the entire load. Therefore, "any or all but one of the metallic strips may break without allowing the car to drop." (Page 2, line 45.) Thus, there would have been no objective reason to modify the sheave of Pearson to include multiple traction surfaces for engaging multiple tension members in the manner recited in each independent claim.

Therefore, independent claims 44 and 66 patentably define the invention over the cited art, and are submitted to be allowable.

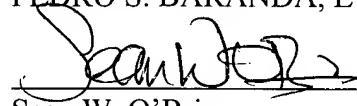
The dependent claims include features in addition to those recited in their respective base claims, and are submitted to be allowable in their own right. Further independent consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

As a result, the prior art, whether considered individually or in combination, does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the pending claims, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of the subject claims.

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0750, Order No. OT-4190B.

Respectfully submitted,

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